

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ECC Decision
of 17 October 2003
on the designation of the frequency band
1479.5 – 1492 MHz
for use by Satellite Digital Audio Broadcasting systems
(ECC/DEC/(03)02)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

New satellite systems within the Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) are planned to be introduced in Europe to offer digital audio broadcast services for individual users via personal, portable and vehicular receive-only terminals. These new satellite systems are identified as providing Satellite Digital Audio Broadcasting (S-DAB) services.

The aim of this Decision is to provide a common approach for CEPT administrations for the harmonised designation of the band 1479.5 - 1492 MHz for the use by S-DAB systems.

2 BACKGROUND

WARC-92 allocated the band 1452 - 1492 MHz on a primary basis for use by the Broadcasting Satellite Service for the purposes of digital sound broadcasting via satellite and envisaged the use of complementary terrestrial sound broadcasting. This allocation is the only ITU allocation in Europe available for the deployment of BSS Sound services. The use of this band is subject to ITU RR Nos.5.345, 5.342, and Resolution 528.

In 1995, a first CEPT T-DAB allotment planning meeting took place in Wiesbaden for the provision of the first and second T-DAB priority coverage, using the VHF band and the lower part of the 1.5 GHz allocation, i.e. the band 1452 - 1467.5 MHz. In year 2000, the ERC decided on the preparation of a second planning exercise, for the provision of a third T-DAB priority coverage, using 7 additional T-DAB blocks, covering the frequency band 1467.5 - 1479.5 MHz. This second T-DAB planning meeting took place in June 2002 in Maastricht, in conjunction with the transfer of the part of the Wiesbaden plan in the 1.5 GHz band into the resulting MA-02 Special Arrangement¹, which in total covers the 1452 - 1479.5 MHz frequency range.

As one outcome of the first questionnaire, which was circulated among CEPT Countries in the framework of preparation of the second T-DAB planning exercise, a preliminary preference for the frequency band 1479.5 - 1492 MHz could be outlined for S-DAB use in CEPT. The ECC confirmed in July 2002 its intention to prepare a Decision in order to further clarify the frequency availability for S-DAB services in this frequency band.

S-DAB systems may be completed by terrestrial transmitters providing a complementary coverage in some areas where the satellite signal is not available.

T-DAB transmitters and networks resulting from converted allotments of the updated MA-02 T-DAB Plan into assignments may also be used on a national basis as complementary components for S-DAB systems taking into account the provisions of the MA-02 Special Arrangement.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The allocation of radio frequencies in CEPT member countries is laid down by law regulation or administrative action. The ECC recognises that for satellite digital audio broadcasting systems to be introduced successfully throughout Europe, manufacturers and operators must be given the confidence to make the necessary investment in this radiocommunication service.

¹ Special Arrangement of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) relating to the use of the band 1452 - 1479.5 MHz for Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (T-DAB), Maastricht, 2002.

**ECC Decision
of 17 October 2003**

**on the designation of the frequency band 1479.5 - 1492 MHz
for use by Satellite Digital Audio Broadcasting (S-DAB) systems**

(ECC/DEC/(03)02)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that the frequency band 1452 - 1492 MHz is allocated on a co-primary basis to the broadcasting-satellite service (sound) and the broadcasting service;
- b) that the band 1452 - 1492 MHz is also allocated on a co-primary basis to the fixed mobile services, and in some CEPT countries to aeronautical mobile service for the purpose of aeronautical telemetry within the national territory according to No 5.342 of the ITU Radio Regulation;
- c) that the use of the frequency band 1452 - 1492 MHz by S-DAB systems is subject to the provisions, inter alia, of Nos 5.342, 5.345, Resolution 528, Resolution 33, Article 9 and Article 11 of the ITU Radio Regulations, as appropriate;
- d) that Resolution 528 presently limits the broadcasting satellite service (sound) use to the band 1467-1492 MHz, and contains provisions regarding relevant ITU-R Recommendations to be used for evaluating interference from S-DAB to other co-primary services;
- e) that S-DAB systems are planned to be brought into operation in Europe for providing digital radio services, using the allocation mentioned in considering a);
- f) that in general S-DAB systems may be completed by terrestrial transmitters providing a complementary coverage in some areas where the satellite signal is not available;
- g) that a CEPT Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (T-DAB) allotment plan using the frequency band 1452 - 1479.5 MHz is set forth by the MA-02 Special Arrangement¹;

DECIDES

1. to designate the frequency band 1479.5 - 1492 MHz for use by satellite digital audio broadcasting systems;
2. that this Decision shall be reviewed inter alia on the basis of market demand at least every 10 years by the CEPT;
3. that this Decision shall enter into force on 17 October 2003;
4. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when the Decision is nationally implemented.”

Note:

Please check the CEPT web site (<http://www.CEPT.org>) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ERC / ECC decisions.

¹ Special Arrangement of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) relating to the use of the band 1452 - 1479.5 MHz for Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (T-DAB), Maastricht, 2002